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of Christ by retranslating them into Aramaic, we are disappointed. There are only about ten passages which display personal research, apart from the adoption of, or criticism of, other men's labors. This is not the place to criticise the Aramaic. There are a few happy elucidations, but the net results of the original retranslation work fall decidedly below one's anticipations. One would like to suppose that Meyer is holding over the best for his new work.

J. T. MARSHALL.

People's Commentary on the Acts, with Critical, Exegetical and Applicative Notes, and Illustrations from Life and History in the East. By EDWIN W. RICE, D.D. Philadelphia: The American Sunday School Union. 1896. Pp. iv + 371.

For the last few years we have had an extraordinary number of books upon Acts written from the critical point of view and it is now time to expect a large number upon the same subject for the benefit of Sunday-school teachers. Such books will not probably claim any great attention from professional teachers, nor should they. They are to be manuals rather than treatises, and, like that of most exegetical annuals, their advent is to be awaited with some apprehension. But if they are all as well made as the present volume, there will be ground for thankfulness.

Dr. Rice has produced a book which does not pretend to be a technical treatise, but which is evidently based upon a knowledge of most recent English treatises. The general position taken in regard to chronological questions is eminently conservative, but it appears from the map appended to the volume that the author has accepted Ramsay's view as to the location of the Galatian churches. The introduction is a good résumé of the reviews of Salmon and Lightfoot, and although it has largely avoided criticism, has space for a defense of the unity of Acts that is probably as extended—if not as well read—as the purpose of the book demands.

The exegetical position of the book is gratifying. There are few works of this class that are as good. There is perhaps too often a yielding to temptation in the shape of homiletic application, but on the whole the interpretation is done soberly and thoughtfully. We do not look for much original work, nor is ingenuity in exegesis much wanted. But Sunday-school teachers who look into the volume for help will seldom be disappointed by a lack of either explanation or information. The author is also to be congratulated on the brevity with which he has made his "suggestive applications." Altogether the book is to be commended for teachers of the international lessons for 1897 who want something more than stories and pious reflections.

It should be added that the book contains a number of illustrations in half-tone from photographs and drawings of localities mentioned in the text.

These perhaps add something of value. One is less sure of the wisdom of printing the parallel texts of Acts at the bottom of the page.

S. M.

An Introduction to the Life of Jesus: An Investigation of the Historical Sources. By ALFRED WILLIAMS ANTHONY, Professor of New Testament Exegesis and Criticism, Cobb Divinity School. Boston: Silver, Burdette & Co. 1896. Pp. 206.

This little work comes opportunely. Probably no time has ever equaled ours in its concern over the evidence that goes to establish the trustworthiness of the sources which contain the facts of the life of Jesus. While we have had many books upon apologetics, those which have dealt exclusively with this form of evidence have not been numerous, or at least sufficiently readable. Professor Anthony's work is, therefore, welcome as an attempt to meet the need.

His aim is not to discuss the times or the circumstances of Jesus' life, but to present the evidence upon which we may accept the historicity of our gospel accounts. He therefore has gathered together and discussed such statements of heathen and Jewish writers as bear upon this point; he has examined the apocryphal gospels, agrapha, patristic writings, and the epistles of Paul and the gospels. By this process he has presented a great number of the most important facts that give weight to a belief in the validity of Christian faith, and has incidentally discussed the synoptic and Johannine problems. If we overlook occasional stylistic peculiarities, the work must be said to have been well done. We cannot agree with the author's conclusions in regard to the synoptic problem, but this is not the most important portion of the book. Professor Anthony has really given us a book upon documentary Christian evidences admirably adapted for use by thoughtful men and women who are not professional students, as well as by students just beginning the study of the life of Jesus. In this particular it will be serviceable if used in connection with the handbook of Professor Gilbert (*The Student's Life of Jesus*) noticed in the October number of the

BIBLICAL WORLD.

S. M.

Die Propheten in ihrer ursprünglichen Form. Die Grundgesetze der ursemitischen Poesie erschlossen und nachgewiesen in Bibel, Keilinschriften, und Koran, und in ihren Wirkungen erkannt in den Chören der griechischen Tragödie.
Von DR. D. H. MÜLLER. I Band: Prolegomena und Epilogomena, pp. 1-256. II Band: Hebräische Texte, pp. 1-70, Arabische Texte, pp. 1-64. Wien: Alfred Hölder, 1896. M. 16.

The characteristic features of ancient Semitic religious poetry according to Professor Müller were mainly four: (1) strophical structure; (2) *respon-sion*, or the correspondence of strophes, the so-called *parallelismus membrorum*